

7 한국어 교실

IN THIS UNIT ...

- Classroom management language
- Using the *Polite Formal* verb endings



KOREAN CLASS

The classroom you are in is not a place where Korean is spoken naturally. The majority of the people there are not (at least for the moment) fluent speakers of Korean and, above all, Korean is the object of study. However, we can make our classroom close to a real-life situation if, wherever possible, we take Korean to be the means to achieve our goal. In this unit we study expressions that are frequently used in teaching and learning a foreign language. We also study more about Korean politeness.

1 Conversation

상우, Kylie, John, and Annie are playing a 'guessing' game. 상우 is holding a picture table, which has not been shown to the other three. (However, the table is given below for your reference.) The three are given instead, a list of the Korean words for all the pictures in the table. Their task is to find out, by asking 'yes-no' questions only, which picture is in which row and in which column. 상우 can say only 네 or 아니요.

		
		
		
		

상우: 자, 시작할까요? ... 카일리씨!
 카일리: 네. ... 아 ... 첫째 줄 왼쪽에 ... 고양이가 있어요?
 상우: 아니요.
 존: 첫째 줄 왼쪽에 개 있어요?
 상우: 네?
 존: 첫째 줄 ... 왼쪽에 ... 개 있어요?
 상우: 네.
 존: 둘째 줄 가운데에 커피 있어요?
 상우: 아니요.
 카일리: 둘째 줄 가운데에 볼펜 있어요?
 상우: 네.
 애니: 셋째 줄 오른쪽에 책 있어요?
 상우: 아니요.

Translation

Sang-U: OK, shall we start? ... Kylie!
 Kylie: Oh, yes. ... Umm ... On the left of the first row ... is there a cat?
 Sang-U: No.
 John: On the left of the first row is there a dog?
 Sang-U: Sorry?
 John: On the left of the first row ... is there a dog?
 Sang-U: Yes.
 John: In the middle of the second row ... is there a coffee?
 Sang-U: No.
 Kylie: In the middle of the second row ... is there a pen?
 Sang-U: Yes.
 Annie: On the right of the third row ... is there a book?
 Sang-U: No.

course. Note also the pronunciation: the ㄱ (*unexploded k*) in ...작 becomes a *heavily aspirated k* in combination with the following ㅎ (*h*) in 하 (see Page 23).

- 아 ... (a): an interjection similar to *Umm* in English. It indicates that the speaker is taking time to figure out what, and how, to say.
- 첫째 줄 (cheot-jjjae jul): *the first row*; here 첫째 means *the first*, and 줄 *line, row*.
- 왼쪽에 (oen-jjo-ge): *on the left*; here 왼쪽 means *the left side*, and -에 is the particle we learnt in Unit 4 (see Page 21) in conjunction with the verb 가- (*go*). Note however, while -에 there was used to indicate the place *to* which we are going, -에 here is used to indicate the place *at, on* or *in* which something is. Note also the pronunciation: *Liaison* happens here (see Page 22).
- 네? (ne): *Sorry?, I beg your pardon?*
- 둘째 줄 (dul-jjjae jul): *the second row*; 둘째 means *the second*
- 가운데에 (ga-un-de-e): *in the middle*
- 셋째 줄 (set-jjjae jul): *the third row*; 셋째 means *the third*
- 오른쪽에 (o-reun-jjo-ge): *on the right*; 오른쪽 means *the right side*

Notes for Conversation

- 자 ... (ja): an interjection used to indicate that *I*, the speaker, now invites *you*, the hearer, to do something (that is good to *you*).
- 시작할까요? (si-ja-kal-kka-yo): *Shall we start?*; here the stem is 시작하- (*to start, begin*), and the ending -(으)니까요 (*shall we do ...*). We will study this ending in detail later in the

2 Classroom management language

Some useful expressions

한국어	the Korean language	다시 한번	Once again!
한글	Hangeul	네?	Sorry? / Pardon?
이름	name	천천히	Slowly!
여러분	Ladies and Gentlemen!	빨리	Fast!
...씨	Mr/Ms ...	크게	Loudly!
선생님	Teacher!	더	more
다 같이	All together!	다	all

Language, Culture & Pronunciation Notes

- The literal meaning of 여러분 (yeo-reo-bun) is *many respected people*, where 여러 means *many* and 분 *respected people*. The function of 여러분 is self explanatory: attention getter. So, if you hear your teacher saying 여러분, you are kindly requested to look at your teacher.
- As mentioned earlier (see Page 20), your instructor will be very likely to use -씨 (ssi) after your name when addressing you or when referring to you for the benefit of your fellow students. Bear in mind that, since -씨 is an honorific title term, you do not use it when you talk about yourself or

when you mention your name.

- When you address your teacher, you don't use -씨 however. The most appropriate expression to use is “선생님 (seon-saeng-nim)”. 선생 is a noun that refers to the profession of *teacher*, and 님 an honorific suffix.
- Despite the spelling, you pronounce 다 같이 (*All together!*) as da ga-chi, not da ga-ti. Here, 다 means *all*, and 같이 *together*.
- 다시 한 번 (da-si han beon) means *Once again!*, where 다시 means *again*, and 한 번 (*once*). We saw in the previous unit that 하나 (*one*), 둘 (*two*), 셋 (*three*), and 넷 (*four*) become 한, 두, 세, and 네 respectively when they occur in front of a counter (a grammatical marker for indicating number properties). The counter for *times* is 번 (beon), thus: 한 번 (*once*), 두 번 (*twice*), 세 번 (*three times*), etc.
- We learnt 네 is *yes*. However, if you say 네 while raising the intonation, you are asking the hearer to repeat what he or she has just said. It is a short but very useful expression to know at this stage.
- 더 (deo) means *more*. You can use it with expressions such as 빨리 (ppal-li: *fast*) and 크게 (keu-ge: *loudly*), as in 더 빨리 (*faster*) 더 크게 (*more loudly*).

Some expressions for Classroom Activities

첫째	the first	가운데	the middle
둘째	the second	-에	in, on, at
줄	line, row	밑	the bottom
왼쪽	the left side	-에서	from
오른쪽	the right side	마지막	the last, the end
	첫째 줄 왼쪽에		on the left side of the first line
	밑에서 둘째 줄		the second last line

Language, Culture & Pronunciation Notes

- Ordinal numbers in Korean are 첫째 (cheot-jjae: *the first*), 둘째 (dul-jjae: *the second*), 셋째 (set-jjae: *the third*), 넷째 (net-jjae: *the fourth*), 다섯째 (cheot-jjae: *the fifth*), and so on. Note the pronunciation of the syllable-final ㅅ (시옷). As explained on Pages 18 and 23, the syllable-final ㅅ (시옷) is pronounced as *unexploded t* unless it is followed by a vowel. Note also that ordinal numbers in everyday Korean are used *only* within the context of finger counting – they are not used, for example, in naming dates of a month as we do in English.
- If you want to say that something is on the left, on the right, and in the middle, attach the particle -에 to 왼쪽 (oen-jjok), 오른쪽 (o-reun-jjok) and 가운데 (ga-un-de) respectively. Assuming that we are looking at a table with three columns and a few rows where a cat is on the left column of the first row, we say 첫째 줄 왼쪽에 고양이 있어요 (Cheot-jjae jul oen-jjo-ge go-yang-i i-sseo-yo: literally, *The first line on its left, there's a cat.*).
- 밑에서 (mi-te-seo) consists of 밑 (mit: *bottom*) and -에서 (e-seo: *from*). This expression will be very useful if you want to say, eg the second last line: 밑에서 둘째 줄 (mi-te-seo dul-jjae jul: literally, *the second line from the bottom*).
- The very last line/row can be referred to as 마지막 줄 (ma-ji-mak jul).

Some more useful expressions

시작하세요.	Start (it) please!
따라 하세요.	Repeat after me please!
잘 들어 보세요.	Listen carefully!
해 보세요.	Have a go!
질문 있어요.	I have a question.
...은/는 영어로 뭐예요?	What is ... in English?
...은/는 영어로 어떻게 말해요?	How do you say ... in English?
맞아요?	Is it correct?
모르겠어요.	I don't know.
잊어버렸어요.	I've forgotten.
아주 좋아요.	Very good!
잘 하셨습니다.	Well done! (You did well!)

Language Notes

- The first four sentences, ie 시작하세요 (*Start (it)!*), 따라 하세요 (*Repeat after me!*), 잘 들어 보세요 (*Listen carefully!*), and 해 보세요 (*Have a go!; Try it (yourself)!*), are all commands (see Page 30). You will perhaps hear your instructor saying them many times; for instance, 시작하세요 will be said when you are about to do some exercises or group activities, and the expression 해 보세요 is typically to invite you to have a go.
- The expression 잘 (jal) in 잘 들어 보세요 (*Listen carefully!*) means *well*, and thus the whole sentence means, literally, *Listen well!*
- When you want to know the meaning of a particular word, eg 빨리 (ppal-li), you can say ‘빨리’는 영어로 뭐예요? (*What is 빨리 in English?*). Two things we should note here: -는 (neun) and -로 (ro). Firstly, -는, or 은 (eun), is the *topic* particle. The particle indicates that the previous word or words are being specifically drawn to the listener’s attention (because the speaker is going to talk about it). You use -는 if the previous word ends in a vowel, and -은 if it ends in a consonant. Secondly, -로, or -으로 (euro), is the *instrument* particle. Its English equivalent would be *by means of, by, in*, etc. You use -로 after a noun ending in a vowel or the consonant ㄹ (리을), and -으로 elsewhere.
- When you are looking for a translation of a sentence, eg *Repeat after me*, you can say ‘Repeat after me’는 한국어로 어떻게 말해요? (*How do you say ‘Repeat after me’ in Korean?*). Here, 어떻게 means *how*, and 말해요 *do you say?*
- If you are making good progress in learning Korean, you will very likely hear the last two sentences, ie 아주 좋아요 (A-ju jo-a-yo) and 잘 하셨습니다 (Jal ha-syeo-sseo-yo), many times. 아주 means *very*, and 좋아요 (*It’s good*). We saw 잘 (jal; *well*) above in 잘 들어 보세요 (literally: *Listen well!*). The same 잘 is used in 잘 하셨습니다 (literally, *You did well!*). Incidentally, if you hear 아주 잘 하셨습니다 (A-ju jal ha-syeo-sseo-yo), don’t be puzzled. It means *You did extremely well!*

3 Using Korean Verbs (3): the *Polite Formal* Style

The *Polite Formal* style uses the endings -ㅂ니다/-습니다 (-m-ni-da/-seum-ni-da) to make statements (and to respond to questions), -ㅂ니까?/-습니까? (-m-ni-kka/-seum-ni-kka) to ask questions, and -십시오/-으십시오 (-sip-si-o/-eu-sip-si-o) to issue commands. We use -ㅂ니다, -ㅂ니까?, and -십시오 when the verb stem ends in a vowel, and -습니다, -습니까?, and -으십시오 when the stem ends in a consonant.

Polite Formal endings are used when there is a feeling of distance between people. They are used, for example, when a student speaking to a teacher; when a younger person speaking to someone who is substantially older; when a person of more junior rank or status is speaking to someone more senior; or when two people who do not know each other very well are conversing.

Polite Formal endings are also used between friends in a formal situations. For instance, two close adult friends might use *Polite Formal* endings in a business meeting (and of course switch to *Polite Informal* or even to *Intimate* outside the meeting room).

As mentioned above (see Pages 23 and 24), the *Polite Formal* also carries somewhat masculine connotations. So while it can be used by women, this often occurs only when the women concerned are performing roles commonly associated with men – exercising authority in an office situation.

In summary:

	Polite Formal	Polite Informal
Making a Statement	VST-ㅂ니다. VST-습니다.	{ VST-아요/어요. ...해요. }
Asking a Question	VST-ㅂ니까? VST-습니까?	{ VST-아요/어요? ...해요? }
Issuing a Command	VST-십시오. VST-으십시오.	VST-세요. VST-으세요

Politeness cannot be reduced to mechanical rules. You will find different people have different ideas about what is appropriate – indeed this difference highlights, at least in part, our individuality. As far as your classroom is concerned, you will have to determine in consultation with your instructor what level of speech is appropriate. If the instructor is middle-aged or beyond, then a more formal style would be appropriate. If the instructor is young, then informality would be appropriate. The age of the instructor is not the only variant, of course. The age of the students should also be taken into account: the older the students, the greater the possibility that formal speech forms would come into play.

We suggest that you avoid being inhibited by the fear of being too informal or formal. As a beginner, you will make many mistakes. But Koreans will not be seriously offended. They are more likely to be delighted that you are trying to use Korean and, as people who are extremely tolerant, friendly and supportive towards foreigners, they will not be hyper-critical of your performance.

On the next page is a table showing both formal and informal Insa, some of which we have studied already. As you can see, these Insa expressions exhibit highly consistent patterns (VST plus an appropriate ending), except for the pair 또 뵈겠습니다 and 또 만나요 (*See you again*) and where marked with a long dash, ———, which indicates that no appropriate expression is available.

Meaning	Polite Formal	Polite Informal
Hello.	안녕하십니까?	안녕하세요?
Pleased to meet you.	반갑습니다.	반가워요.
I'm입니다.	...이에요/예요.
Good-bye. (to person leaving)	안녕히 가십시오.	안녕히 가세요.
Good-bye. (to person staying)	안녕히 계십시오.	안녕히 계세요.
I'm sorry.	미안합니다.	미안해요.
Thank you.	감사합니다.	_____
Thank you.	고맙습니다.	고마워요.
Not at all.	_____	천만에요.
It's O.K.	괜찮습니다.	괜찮아요.
Yes.	예.	네.
No.	아닙니다.	아니요.
Welcome.	어서 오십시오.	어서 오세요.
Come in.	들어오십시오.	들어오세요.
Sit down.	앉으십시오.	앉으세요.
See you again.	또 뵙겠습니다.	또 만나요.
Sorry I'm late.	늦어서 미안합니다.	늦어서 미안해요.